(c) the nature of safeguards Government propose to provide during the 10-year transition period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) The Indian Drugs Sector has requested for providing certain safeguards in the revised patent law before grant of exclusive marketing rights (EMRs). In the Patents (Amendment) Bill, 1995 Government has provided the following safeguards in the public interest:—

(i) Before exclusive marketing rights are granted, the application is to be examined to ensure that there is no 'primafacie' violation of existing provisions of the Patents Act, 1970.

(ii) The Government could, either on its own or through any authorised person, assume the marketing rights in public interest. Also, the Government would have the powers to fix the prices for the items for which EMRs are granted.

(iii) Provisions of compulsory licensing have also been extended to EMRs.

Demand of cement in the Country

6424. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate demand of cement in the country by 2000 AD and the projections made till then;

(b) whether there is a need to increase the production of cement during this period; and

(c) if so, the proposal mooted by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) The Planning Commission has projected demand of cement by the year 1999-2000 at 87 million tonnes. The projection for 1996-97, the terminal year of the Eighth Plan, is 76 million tonnes. The cement industry has been de-licensed. Although the Central Government itself has no intentions for seting up any cement plant, the industry is capable of meeting the demand fully, keeping in view the present growth rate of 8% per annum.

Small scale Industries in the country

6425. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the latest number of small scale industries in the country, State-wise, and when the last census was held;

(b) whether Government keeps an account of sick small units, if so, the details thereof including the criteria fixed for the survey of such sick industries;

(c) whether it is a fact that in Thane district of Maharashtra about 70 per cent of small scale units are not registered, if so, the reasons therefor and the number of such unregistered units, State-wise; and

(d) in what manner these unregistered units get attention and protection of Government policies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Total number of Small Scale Units registered with Directorates of Industries in States/UTs as on 31st December, 1993 was 17,72,485. Statewise details are given in statement. (*See* below)

Last Census of registered Small Scale Industries was conducted for the reference year 1987-88 and the units registered upto 31st March, 1988 were covered.